

## Special Federal Program Notices



### Department of Homeland Security Announces Application Period for FY 2008 Assistance to Firefighters Grants



The Department of Homeland Security's Grant Programs Directorate will begin accepting applications for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) beginning March 3, 2008, at 8:00 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EST) with the deadline for receipt of the applications no later than April 4, 2008, at 5:00 p.m. EDT. The AFG, which will be distributed in phases throughout FY 2008, will ultimately award approximately \$500 million.

Interested applicants can access the FY 2008 AFG application through the AFG website <http://www.firegrantsupport.com>, the U.S. Fire Administration's (USFA) Website (<http://www.usfa.fema.gov>) and the Grants.gov Website (<http://www.grants.gov>). The website contains important information about the AFG including the FY 2008 funding priorities and program guidance, a web-based tutorial on the application process, a listing of frequently asked questions and other materials. Fire departments that have questions regarding this grant opportunity should contact the Help Desk at 1-866-274-0960 or email to [firegrants@dhs.gov](mailto:firegrants@dhs.gov). During the application period, Help Desk hours will be from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and on Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. EDT. Additional Help Desk hours may be added if demand is high.

Eligible applicants for the FY 2008 AFG are limited to fire departments and nonaffiliated emergency medical service (EMS) organizations operating within the 50 United States, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Interested applicants may submit two separate applications for consideration under each of the following two program areas:

- **Operations and Safety Program Area:** Eligible activities for fire departments and nonaffiliated EMS organizations are limited to training, equipment, personal protective equipment, wellness and fitness, and modifications to facilities.
- **Vehicle Acquisition Program Area:** Eligible apparatus available to fire departments under this program area include, but are not limited to, pumpers, brush trucks, tankers/tenders, rescue vehicles, ambulances, quints, aerials, foam units, and fireboats.

The FY 2008 AFG will also allow eligible applicants to submit an additional application for a regional project through which multiple organizations, serving more than one local jurisdiction, may benefit directly from the activities implemented with the grant funds.

**GRANTS OFFERED FOR HIGH ENERGY COST COMMUNITIES.** Nonprofits, for-profits, state and local governments, and tribes can apply by March 28 for competitive grants to improve energy generation, transmission, or distribution facilities for communities with high residential home energy costs. See *Federal Register*, 1/28/08, pp. 4778-90 or <http://www.usda.gov/rus/electric>. Contact Karen Larsen, RD, 202-720-9545, [energy.grants@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:energy.grants@wdc.usda.gov).

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## **FCC AND USDA LAUNCH WEB SITE FOCUSED ON RURAL BROADBAND OPPORTUNITIES**

The Federal Communications Commission and the United States Department of Agriculture announced the launch of a new, online resource -- <http://wireless.fcc.gov/outreach/ruralbroadband> -- for those in rural America looking to bring the benefits of broadband services to their communities. This "Broadband Opportunities for Rural America" web site makes available the expertise and resources of the FCC and USDA in a single, easily-accessible location. The site provides information on the different technology platforms that can be used to provide broadband service, how to access spectrum necessary for delivery of wireless broadband services, government funding for broadband services, relevant FCC and USDA proceedings and initiatives, and data on broadband deployment. In addition, the site provides instructions on how to locate companies already licensed to provide wireless services in or near specific rural communities, as well as helpful links to other government and private resources related to encouraging broadband opportunities in rural America. [http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DOC-279938A1.doc](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-279938A1.doc)

### **\* Rural Broadband Workshops**

The Federal Communications Commission and the United States Department of Agriculture will conduct four educational workshops focused on rural broadband during 2008. The workshops will provide communities and organizations in rural America seeking to bring the benefits of broadband to their communities with an opportunity to learn about the resources, programs, and policies of the FCC and USDA. The topics to be covered at the workshops include: the different technology platforms used to provide broadband services, USDA funding for broadband deployment, the FCC's Rural Health Care Pilot program, and wireless spectrum access. The workshops will also provide communities and organizations an opportunity to share their experiences about broadband deployment in rural and hard-to-reach areas. Here's the schedule: April 30, 2008: Blacksburg, Virginia; June 19, 2008: Saginaw, Michigan; September 18, 2008: Austin, Texas; November 20, 2008: Phoenix, Arizona. Registration is free but must be done by February 25, 2008. For additional information about the workshops, please visit the FCC's website at <http://wireless.fcc.gov/outreach/ruralbroadband/>; send an email to [ruralworkshop@fcc.gov](mailto:ruralworkshop@fcc.gov); or contact Chelsea Fallon at [Chelsea.Fallon@fcc.gov](mailto:Chelsea.Fallon@fcc.gov) or (202) 418-7991, or Cecilia Sulhoff at [Cecilia.Sulhoff@fcc.gov](mailto:Cecilia.Sulhoff@fcc.gov) or (202) 418-0587. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office and on the USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov> [http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DA-08-281A1.doc](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-08-281A1.doc)

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## Administration of Children and Families

### Information Memorandum - Subject: Head Start Reauthorization

On December 12, 2007, the President signed into law the reauthorization of the Head Start program (P.L. 110-134; see [ACF-IM-HS-08-01](#) for a discussion of the major provisions in this Bill). Many of the new requirements in that law became effective on the date the President signed it. Grantees are expected to carefully review the new Head Start Act and move forward expeditiously to take those steps necessary to achieve full compliance with these new requirements.

OHS will, over the coming months, implement changes to our instruments and procedures in order to assure our monitoring, risk assessment and other stewardship efforts will, by October 1, 2008, be consistent with these new statutory mandates.

[http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/Program%20Design%20and%20Management/Head%20Start%20Requirements/IMs/2008/resour\\_ime\\_001\\_010308.html](http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/Program%20Design%20and%20Management/Head%20Start%20Requirements/IMs/2008/resour_ime_001_010308.html)

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## Administration of Children and Families

### Information Memorandum: [\[See Attachments at the bottom\]](#)

#### **SUBJECT:** The 2008 Family Income Guidelines

The Head Start Act establishes income eligibility for participation in Head Start programs based, in part, on the poverty guidelines updated annually in the Federal Register by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the authority of 42 U.S.C. 9902(2). The attached 2008 Family Income Guidelines were published in the Federal Register on January 23, 2008 (Vol. 73, No. 15, pp. 3971-3972).

The attached definition of "income" that is used by Head Start is derived from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports and earlier reports in the same series. It provides a more detailed guidance on the term "income" than is found in 45 CFR 1305.2(i).

The definition of "family" to be used in determining eligibility is found at 45 CFR 1305.2(e), which defines family as all persons living in the same household who are:

1. supported by the income of the parent(s) or guardian(s) of the child enrolling or participating in the program, and
2. related to the parent(s) or guardian(s) by blood, marriage or adoption.

#### **Attachments:**

[Family Income Guidelines 2008](#)

[Head Start Program Definition of Income](#)

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## **Administration of Children and Families**

### **Information Memorandum - Subject: Head Start Risk Management Process**

The Office of Head Start is implementing a Risk Management Process for all grantees that will become fully operational in April 2008.

The Risk Management Process will serve as an overarching framework tying together the Funding, Monitoring, and Technical Assistance processes to serve the following purposes:

- Prevent or reduce risks
- Focus on early intervention and build on strengths
- Improve communication and information sharing
- Create corporate knowledge

The Risk Management process will be repeated each year for all grantees. It will begin approximately seven months in advance of each grantee's continuation funding date and will help identify specific areas that need to be addressed in the Refunding Application. Grantees will be expected to play an active role in this process.

A central and dynamic component of this process is the Risk Management Meeting (RMM). The goals of the RMM are to recognize grantee strengths, identify areas of performance that need improvement, and, using this information, collaborate in producing a comprehensive action plan that addresses those areas in need of support and improvement. Participants at this meeting will include, in addition to grantee staff, OHS program staff, ACF grants staff, and training and technical assistance staff.

The Regional Office will contact grantees well in advance of the funding year to arrange RMM meetings. An invitational letter and preliminary agenda will be sent approximately 30 days prior to the meeting. We encourage you to provide input on the agenda and to take the opportunity to collaboratively plan and prepare for the meeting. To ensure the timely delivery of meeting materials, grantees are asked to verify and update contact information on the Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center (ECLKC) profiles.

Key grantee staff, including Governing Body representative(s), the Executive Director, the Chief Financial Officer, the Head Start Director, Policy Council representative(s), and Program Managers are encouraged to fully participate in the RMM. State funding partners and CSBG Representatives may be invited, as appropriate.

The RMM will result in an Action Plan collaboratively tailored to address areas of improvement or growth. Plans will reflect necessary action steps, identify those persons responsible and establish implementation timelines. Active, mutual engagement in the implementation of the Action Plan is vital to the success of the Risk Management Process.

While all grantees will have at least one RMM each year, there are circumstances when additional RMMs may be held to gauge progress in meeting goals or sustaining improvements. One such circumstance, for example, may be the scheduling of additional meetings with a grantee that has been determined to have deficiencies or a significant number of non-compliances.

A presentation of the Risk Management Process by senior OHS staff can be accessed on the Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center (ECLKC) at <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov>.

OHS looks forward to developing closer working relationships with grantees and the communities they serve. Risk management is a tool to identify potential problems and address them early in a shared manner so that we can assure all of the children and families in Head Start are receiving services of the highest possible quality.

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## **National Endowment For The Arts Grant Opportunities Announcement**

NEA announces that application guidelines for FY 2009 grants are now available on-line at [www.arts.gov](http://www.arts.gov). The National Endowment for the Arts is a federal agency dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts - both new and established, bringing the arts to all Americans, and providing leadership in arts education. Annually, the agency awards more than \$100 million in matching grants to non-profit organizations in all 50 States. In FY 2007, the agency awarded at least one direct grant in all Congressional districts.

### **Grant Information**

The Arts Endowment awards grants to non-profit organizations for arts projects that are of national, regional, or field-wide significance; that tour in several states; or that provide an unusual or especially valuable contribution because of geographic location. Grants are awarded also for local projects that can have significant effects within communities or that are likely to serve as program models. Arts Endowment funding is available for projects in the following fields: Dance, Design, Folk & Traditional Arts, Literature, Media Arts (Film, Radio, Television), Museums, Music, Musical Theater, Opera, Presenting, Theater and Visual Arts. The Endowment also awards grants to local and State Arts Agencies and to Regional Arts Organizations.

### **Funding Categories**

**Access to Artistic Excellence:** Projects that foster and preserve excellence in the arts and provide access to the arts for all Americans. An organization may request a matching grant from \$5,000 to \$150,000. Application deadlines: March 10, 2008 and August 11, 2008. (See Guidelines to determine which deadline pertains to which type of project.) **Challenge America: Reaching Every Community Fast-Track Review**

**Grants:** Grants for projects that extend the reach of the arts to underserved populations. Matching grants are for \$10,000. Application deadline: June 2, 2008. **Learning in the Arts for Children and Youth:** Projects that enhance the quality of, and access to, arts

education for children and youth. Matching grants are from \$5,000 to \$150,000.  
Application deadline: June 9, 2008.

**For Application Assistance**

Review the following website for more information:

<http://www.arts.gov/grants/apply/index.html>

The website includes “frequently asked questions” and names and phone numbers of Endowment staff to answer questions about the application process. Examples of recent grants can be found at [www.arts.gov/grants/recent](http://www.arts.gov/grants/recent). Applications must be submitted electronically through Grants.gov, the federal government’s online application system.

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